

Message Text

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ACTION EB-06

INFO OCT-01 EUR-08 ISO-00 CAB-02 CIAE-00 COME-00 DODE-00

DOT-00 INR-05 NSAE-00 RSC-01 FAA-00 SSO-00 L-01

INRE-00 /024 W

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FM AMEMBASSY ROME

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 7686

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: EAIR, IT

SUBJECT: CIVAIR - EXTRA SECTION CONSULTATIONS WITH GOI

REF: STATE 233187

1. DESPITE PAA/TWA/ALITALIA AGREEMENT ON EXTRA SECTIONS, CIVILAVIA CONTINUES DENY US CARRIERS' REQUESTS ON GROUNDS ALITALIA HAS SUFFICIENT SPACE AVAILABLE. IN MOST BUT NOT ALL CASES EMBASSY/CARRIERS HAVE BEEN ABLE REVERSE INITIAL DECISION. MODUS VIVENDI MENTIONED PARA (1) REFTEL THEREFORE NOT ONLY UNCERTAIN BUT LACKS RECIPROCITY.

2. ITALIANS FULLY AWARE THAT ALL REQUESTS FOR WET LEASES HAVE BEEN APPROVED BY CAB AND THAT THEIR EXTRA SECTIONS DO NOT REQUIRE PRIOR CAB APPROVAL. IT IS PRECISELY THIS SITUATION WHICH PERMITS CIVILAVIA DISREGARD, AS "INDEPENDENT" GOI AGENCY,
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INTERLINE AGREEMENT ON EXTRA SECTIONS. MOREOVER, IN FUTURE

ALITALIA UNLIKELY NEED WET LEASE AIRCRAFT FOR EXTRA SECTIONS DUE TO REDUCED SCHEDULES WHICH INCREASE AVAILABILITY OF SPARE AIRCRAFT AND CREWS.

3. EMBASSY WOULD CERTAINLY FAVOR SOLUTION WHEREBY NEITHER US CARRIERS NOR ALITALIA NEED OBTAIN PRIOR APPROVAL EXTRA SECTIONS. IN EMBASSY VIEW, HOWEVER, GOI WILL NOT UNDER ANY CIRCUMSTANCES ABANDON PRIOR APPROVAL REQUIREMENT. CONSEQUENTLY, ONLY WAY IN WHICH USG CAN OBTAIN SUFFICIENT LEVERAGE ENSURE APPROVAL US CARRIER REQUESTS BY CIVILAVIA IS TO REQUIRE SIMILAR PRIOR APPROVAL BY CAB FOR ALITALIA EXTRA SECTIONS.

4. CONSULTATIONS WOULD THEREFORE SERVE AT LEAST TWO HIGHLY USEFUL PRUPOSES: (1) EDUCATION KEY CIVILAVIA PERSONNEL (WHO WOULD PARTICIPATE IN CONSULTATIONS AND WHO ARE CULPABLE IN FAILURE EFFECTIVELY IMPLEMENT PRESENT INTERLINE AGREEMENT); AND (2) ACHIEVE (ONE WAY OR ANOTHER) RECIPROCITY IN US-ITALIAN TREATMENT OF EXTRA SECTIONS.

5. EMBASSY WILLING APPROACH GOI ONCE MORE ON EXTRA SECTIONS CONCSULTATIONS ALONG LINES PROPOSED REFTEL. (WE HAVE, HOWEVER, BEEN INFORMED WITHIN LAST WEEK BY BOTH MFA AND ALITALIA OF THEIR FIRM INTENTION PROCEED WITH CONSULTATIONS AT LATER MUTUALLY CONVENIENT DATE.) BEFORE DOING SO, HOWEVER, EMBASSY WOULD APPRECIATE DEPARTMENT'S EVALUATION WHETHER, IN VIEW PARAS 1-4 ABOVE, IT WOULD STILL BE USEFUL TO DO SO.

6. EMBASSY EMPHASIZES THAT IF (AS SEEMS CERTAIN) GOI UNWILLING ABANDON PRIOR APPROVAL REQUIREMENT, USG AGENCIES MUST RPT MUST BE PREPARED IMPOSE SIMILAR REQUIREMENT ON ALITALIA IF US CARRIERS ARE TO RECEIVE EQUITABLE TREATMENT BY CIVILAVIA. LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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STATEMENT THAT SIMILAR CAB REQUIREMENT IS "HIGHLY LIKELY" (PARA 2 REFTEL) IS NOT RPT NOT STRONG ENOUGH, IN EMBASSY'S VIEW, TO AHCIEVE DESIRED RESULTS.

7. EMBASSY WOULD APPRECIATE REPLY ASAP SINCE MFA HAS INDICATED NOTE DECLINING EMBASSY'S FORMAL REQUEST TO CALL OFF EXTRA SECTION

CONSULTATIONS IS NOW BEING PREPARED. VOLPE

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